

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please add the following "Related Applications" paragraph after the Title at page 1, line 2:

**RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application is the U.S. National Stage of International Application No. PCT/GB2003/002773, filed June 30, 2003, published in English, and claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 or 365 to Great Britain Application No. 0215505.9, filed July 4, 2002.

Please replace the paragraph at page 15, lines 11 through 12 with the following amended paragraph:

Figures 12a and 12b show[[s]] a block schematic diagram of a router in accordance with the invention in a MAN.

Please replace the paragraph at page 42, lines 13 through 20 with the following amended paragraph:

Turning now to Figures 12a and 12b, this shows how a passive cross connect, for example, a passive optical network 949 can be used with a MAN 950 to connect nodes of the MAN to each other and to route external to the MAN, for example to the Internet. Figure 12a shows a part of the MAN 950 having one external node 951 with a minor trunk 956. Two internal nodes 952 and 953 are shown. 958 and 959 represent the trunk inputs to node 952 and 953 respectively. There are two major trunks 954 and 955 connected to routes external to MAN. The node 951 is connected to a four nodes 961.